



News Release

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Sutter's Fort SHP

Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: Catch Gold Fever" on January 20

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) and Friends of Sutter's Fort are proud to present an interactive and fun "Hands on History: *Catch Gold Fever*" event on Saturday, January 20, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort visitors will have the unique opportunity to step back in time and explore an era that changed California forever. The gold discovery at Coloma echoed around the world and triggered the largest migration in United States history. Thousands of immigrants gambled and came to early California to try to strike it rich. They left family behind, spent life savings, and borrowed money all in the pursuit of gold. Many miners bought one-way passage on ships bound for California, and abandoned ships clogged the port in San Francisco as miners and sailors took off for the hills. Miners stopped at Sutter's Fort before they headed for the hills in their quest for gold, and the Fort was often the first place to which they returned for supplies and entertainment. Sadly, the dream of riches was not often the reality and many left the hills with only disappointment in their pockets.

As an event highlight, Fort visitors are invited to spend the day enjoying hands-on activities such as gold panning, parlor and card games (and other games of chance) and "Pioneer dress-up Station" activities where families dress as pioneers (perfect for picture-taking). In addition, there will be a display of guns and weapons from the Gold Rush era and demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action including the crowd-favorite firing of Sutter's cannon. In addition, Friends of Sutter's Fort will be sampling out popular gold rush nugget chocolates and featuring gold rush-related items for sale in the on-site Store so visitors can bring a bit of gold rush history home with them.

All "Hands on History" activities are included in the cost of admission. Sutter's Fort SHP admission costs are as follows: \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and free for children 5 and under. For more information, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

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California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

Friends of Sutter's Fort

The Friends of Sutter's Fort is a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization dedicated to the enhancement, preservation and protection of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, and educational and interpretive programs at the park. Friends of Sutter's Fort is a Cooperating Association for California State Parks since 2006. Friends of Sutter's Fort is the major funder of both restoration work and programs at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. Through the generosity of our donors, in the past 3 years alone, we have funded several major projects including the painting of the exterior walls, the restoration of the blacksmith shop and the painting of the interior walls (currently underway). In addition, we are proud to provide funding to support the educational programs at the park. For more information, please visit www.suttersfort.org

Social Media Tags: #SuttersFort, @SuttersFort

